(c) to (e) Railways introduce new trains, extend the run of the existing trains, increase the frequency of trains, augment the load of the trains and run special trains etc. to provide more passenger accommodation. In 2007-08, it has been proposed in the budget to introduce 43 pair new trains, extension of 23 pair trains, increase in frequency of 14 pair trains and augment the popular trains with about 800 coaches. All new trains will have a minimum of 6 general class coaches subject to operation feasibility.

Handling over of surplus land to RLDA

2102. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has taken decision to handover surplus land of 25 locations around the country to the newly constituted Rail Land Development Authority for commercial exploitation; and

(b) if so, what is the total estimated income to be earned by Railways from this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As yet, 13 sites have been entrusted to Rail Land Development Authority for commercial exploitation.

(b) Under the scheme, the developer will be selected through bidding process in transparent manner. It is not possible at present to ascertain the amount of realization from these sites.

Modernization of Railways

2103. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the modernization of Railways with the help of private players;

(b) if so, the areas identified by the Railways to create more revenue for the modernization plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide job security to workers in such private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a number of areas/activities such as upgradation of stations at major metropolitan cities, establishment of super speciality hospitals, setting up of manufacturing units for rolling stock, infrastructure projects for port connectivity through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and several activities in catering/tourism and hospitality area have been identified for possible execution through public-private partnership route.

Decline in employment through SSIs

2104. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a decline in employment/jobs through Small Scale Industries in NER particularly in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of unemployed youths provided jobs in NER through Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Estimated employment in the registered small scale industries in the North Eastern Region (including Assam) has registered continuous growth as may be seen from the table given below:

Name of State	Estimated employment				
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Arunachal Pradesh	1481	1708	1920	1982	2197
Assam	64623	71017	76795	81551	88585
Manipur	19626	20070	20405	20735	21124
Meghalaya	10734	12039	13611	15880	18087
Mizoram	9061	9850	10760	11770	12722
Nagaland	4967	7003	10227	14046	20361
Sikkim	959	1019	1117	1221	1301
Tripura	11666	12095	12475	11547	11592
Total	123117	134801	147309	158731	175968

Employment in the unregistered SSI sector in the North East Region has also been estimated to go up during this period.